

**TOWN OF PITTSFORD
TOWN BOARD
January 20, 2026**

Proceedings of a meeting of the Pittsford Town Board held on Wednesday, November 6, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. local time in the Lower-Level Meeting Room of Town Hall, 11 South Main Street, in person.

PRESENT: Supervisor William A. Smith, Jr., Councilmembers Michael Arcuri, Naveen Havannavar, Cathy Koshykar, Cha Ron Sattler-LeBlanc.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: Staff Members: Robert Koegel, Town Attorney; Paul Schenkel, Commissioner of Public Works; Renee McQuillen, Town Clerk; Jessie Hollenbeck, Recreation Director; Shelley O'Brien, Communications Director; Spencer Bernard, Chief of Staff.

ATTENDANCE: Twenty-four members of the public along with an interpreter attended.

Supervisor Smith called the Town Board meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and invited all to join in the Pledge to Flag.

In honor of Martin Luther King Day, which was celebrated on January 19, each Town Board Member read a paragraph of the proclamation below.

Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an unwavering champion for justice and understanding, whose activism shined the light on injustice and illuminated our common humanity; and

Whereas, Dr. King's commitment to the ideals upon which America was founded – among them liberty, equality, and opportunity for all – reflect a true and enduring patriotism that changed the course of our country's history and to this day inspires our continued efforts to bring to life his dream that our citizens and residents "will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character;" and

Whereas, each of us should contribute to making our community better by working to assure equal opportunity for all citizens, and as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is the only federal holiday commemorated as a National Day of Service, it offers an opportunity for us to give back to our community on the holiday and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year;

Now, Therefore, Be It Known, on the occasion of the nation's annual celebration of **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, that the members of the Town Board of Pittsford recognize Dr. King's legacy of justice, non-violence, equal opportunity and brotherhood, and those aspects of our lives and experience that unite, rather than divide; and proclaim the enduring relevancy of that legacy for our nation and our community; and

Be it Further Known that it is with appreciation and a commitment to Dr. King's ideals that the members of the Pittsford Town Board ask our fellow residents to join us in remembering and honoring the life, work and legacy of **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, on the national holiday in his honor, **January 19, 2026**, and every day.

SUPERVISOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Smith noted that the NYSDOT has denied the Town's request for a traffic light at the intersection of Mitchell Road and East Jefferson Road. He is scheduled to participate in a conference call on March 2 to discuss this further with representatives of the DOT.

PRESENTATION BY COMMON GROUND HEALTH: AGE FRIENDLY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Melissa Wendland, Director of Strategic Initiatives with Common Ground Health, which leads the Monroe County Aging Alliance. This year they are celebrating Age Friendly 2.0, a 12 year collaboration between the city, county, and other funders, working with municipalities to ensure they are including age friendly considerations as they review their comprehensive plans. They seek Town Board support in including livable communities as part of the town's comprehensive plan and for board members to identify two priorities to support older adults.

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6 MEETING APPROVED

A spelling correction of Councilmember Sattler-LeBlanc's last name was noted and then a Resolution to approve the minutes of the Town Board meeting of January 6, 2026, as amended, was offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Havannavar, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the amended Minutes of January 6, 2026, Town Board meeting are approved.

LEGAL MATTERS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tharaha Thavakumar commented.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN PITTSFORD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION AND TOWN HISTORIAN

Following discussion of the contract specifics, Supervisor Smith made a motion to authorize the Town Historian to enter into the agreement with the Pittsford Cemetery Association for records storage, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Havannavar, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the Town Historian to enter into the Incoming Loan Agreement with the Pittsford Cemetery Association for the storage of its records in the Historian's office at the Spiegel Community Center in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Incoming Loan Agreement submitted herewith.

RESCHEDULING SECOND FEBRUARY TOWN BOARD MEETING

Due to the timing of the Association of Towns Annual Meeting, the second meeting of February needs to be moved to Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6 PM and a motion for that change was made by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Havannavar and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, that the second Town Board meeting of February shall be changed from Tuesday, February 17 to Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

REFUSE DISTRICT DISCUSSION

Maureen Nix shared updates and brief synopsis of the current standing of the refuse district program. She highlighted the biggest issue since the acquisition of Seyrek by Casella has been the communication breakdown between Casella's local and corporate offices. An example highlighted was

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that Casella sent out a standard communication meant for their non-refuse district customers to all refuse district customers stating that recycling is every other week pickup. This is not true for the refuse districts as their contract calls for weekly pickup of recycling.

Board members discussed:

- The value of filtering communications through neighborhood liaisons active in creation of the refuse districts and possibly consulting those liaisons in preparing bid specifications when the contract is next up for bid.
- The pros and cons of making garbage collection a Town-wide municipal service.
- Research done that shows interest among a number of local refuse companies to bid on our next contract for Refuse District services.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS
SURPLUS INVENTORY**

A resolution to approve surplus items was offered by Deputy Supervisor Havannavar, seconded by Councilmember Arcuri, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

Be it resolved, that the attached list of equipment be declared surplus and be removed from the Town’s inventory.

Asset #	Description	Department	Cost	Status
17524	MACK 10 WHEEL CAB & CHASSIS - #461	Highway	\$ 106,322.00	Auction
17524-1	MACK ALL SEASON SIDE DUMP BODY - #461	Highway	\$ 73,805.00	Auction
14314	VIKING FRONT PLOW - #461	Highway	\$ 2,500.00	Auction
14315	VIKING PLOW WING - #461	Highway	\$ 2,000.00	Auction
18819	BRI MAR 7X12 7 TON DUMP TRAILER - #109	Highway	\$ 6,700.00	Dispose
18277	PORTA BAND SAW	Highway	\$ 315.00	Dispose
17737	CHEVY 1500 VAN #519-1	Maintenance	\$ 19,804.00	Auction

JANUARY VOUCHERS APPROVED

Board members acknowledged review of the vouchers proposed for payment and a resolution to approve the proposed vouchers offered by Councilmember Sattler-LeBlanc, seconded by Councilmember Arcuri, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared carried as follows:

RESOLVED, the **January vouchers from numbers 173767 - 174102, totaling \$ \$1,101,054.21** were approved for payment.

**RECREATIONAL MATTERS
PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tharaha Thavakumar and Cathy Doyle commented.

APPROVAL OF SPRING 2026 RECREATION PROGRAMS

With a motion offered by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Deputy Supervisor Havannavar, and was voted on by members of as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

PERSONNEL MATTERS

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HIRING/PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

A Resolution to approve the recommendations for new hires and status and/or salary changes was offered for approval by Supervisor Smith, seconded by Councilmember Arcuri, and voted on by members as follows: Ayes: Arcuri, Havannavar, Koshykar, Sattler-LeBlanc, and Smith. Nays: none.

The Resolution was declared passed as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board approves the appointment for the following employee(s):

The following employee(s) are recommended as a new hire based on the recommendation of the Functional Coordinator(s) for these areas. This is subject to completion of the proper reviews and background checks for these candidates and appropriate sign off by the Town Board representative.

Name	Dept	Position	Rate	Date of Hire
Miriam Yaar	Rec	Rec Assistant	\$16.00	01/22/2026

OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Smith shared that resumes have been received for the open seats on the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. He will be reaching out to board members to schedule interviews.

Deputy Supervisor Havannavar shared the statement below regarding federal enforcement of immigration law. The Supervisor asked that it be included in the record of this meeting.

Naveen Havannavar – January 20, 2026

Pittsford is a diverse and welcoming community. A little over 10 percent of our residents are immigrants. They are our neighbors, coworkers, parents, business owners, and students, and they contribute every day to the strength of this town.

Under the current federal administration, as of January 2026, immigration enforcement has become more aggressive nationwide. This has included increased workplace raids and community-based enforcement actions, including the fatal shooting of Renée Good, a U.S. citizen, during a federal immigration enforcement operation earlier this year. Civil rights organizations have raised serious concerns that these practices are contributing to fear, uncertainty, and an erosion of due process protections.

Over the last few days, Supervisor Smith and I have received multiple messages from residents seeking clarity around immigration enforcement and the role of the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office. In response, I reviewed the policy information currently available on the Sheriff’s Office website to better understand their stated approach and responsibilities.

I want to acknowledge what is working in the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office stated policy:

- Deputies do not stop or inquire about individuals based solely on immigration status.
- Crime victims and witnesses are protected from having immigration status used against them.
- The policy recognizes important legal distinctions governing law enforcement authority.
- New York State law places limits on detention related to immigration enforcement.

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- I appreciate Supervisor Smith's willingness to raise these concerns directly with the Zone A Captain.

At the same time, there are important gaps and ambiguities that affect community trust:

- Cooperation related to federal criminal warrants can be used strategically in ways that disproportionately impact immigrant communities.
- The policy does not clearly reference training related to constitutional protections or de-escalation in immigration-related encounters.
- It does not explicitly state whether local law enforcement will decline participation in ICE raids or operations that target individuals primarily based on race, language, or type of work, as outlined in the Kavanaugh Stops decision.

I would appreciate it if Supervisor Smith could seek clarity on these points in his meeting with the Zone A Captain and report back to the Board so we can better understand how these situations are handled in practice.

We often rely on the Fourth and Fifth Amendments as safeguards against unreasonable searches, seizures, and self-incrimination without due process. However, recent legal developments have raised serious concerns about how these protections are being applied in immigration-related contexts.

In a 2025 Supreme Court case, *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo*, Justice Brett Kavanaugh's concurrence laid the groundwork for what are now commonly referred to as Kavanaugh Stops. This reasoning suggests that immigration agents may stop and question individuals based on factors such as appearance or perceived ethnicity, language spoken, or type of work.

This is not theoretical. Immigration agents are already using this logic in the field. U.S. citizens have been stopped and questioned, not just undocumented immigrants. Civil rights organizations have documented more than 170 such encounters as of late 2025. Many legal scholars and advocates have described Kavanaugh Stops as the normalization of racial profiling under constitutional law.

This creates fear not only among undocumented residents, but also among lawful permanent residents and U.S. citizens who simply look or sound like immigrants. Fear like this undermines public safety, discourages crime reporting, and erodes trust in government institutions.

Because Pittsford does not have its own police department and relies on the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for law enforcement services, I am asking this Board to consider a reaffirmation that clearly communicates our town's expectations.

Specifically:

- Reaffirms Pittsford's commitment to the Fourth and Fifth Amendments and due process for all residents, regardless of immigration status.
- Reaffirms that town facilities, staff, and resources will not be used in ways that undermine constitutional protections.
- Encourages the Sheriff's Office to avoid participation in enforcement actions that rely on race, language, or type of work.

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- Encourages training focused on constitutional limits, de-escalation, and community trust.
- Affirms that victims and witnesses should feel safe interacting with law enforcement without fear related to immigration status.

This reaffirmation would not direct county law enforcement. It would formally place Pittsford's values, expectations, and commitment to constitutional governance on the record and communicate those expectations to our law enforcement partners.

Finally, I want to speak directly to our immigrant residents. While these policy discussions continue, there are practical steps individuals can take to protect themselves:

- Carry valid identification and immigration documentation when possible.
- Know your rights, including the right to remain silent and to ask whether you are being detained.
- Ask to see a judicial warrant before allowing entry into your home.
- Keep emergency contact and legal information readily available.
- Stay connected to trusted legal aid and community organizations.

Our responsibility as a town is to foster safety, dignity, and trust for all residents. Naming these realities clearly is not political. It is necessary. We cannot protect our community if we are unwilling to acknowledge what is happening in plain language.

The Board agreed to express these sentiments in a letter to be sent to the County Sheriff's Office, to state our expectations for county law enforcement's role in any immigration enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Cianca, Scott Wallman, Tharaha Thavakumar and Cathy Doyle commented.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Renee McQuillen
Town Clerk